A True and Faithful
RELATION
From the People of God (called) *QUAKERS*, IN
COLCHESTER.

Of the dealings of God with them, since they were called to the knowledge of the truth, and of the oppositions they have received from men as they passed from death to life.

With a brief account of the late Cruel and unparalleld sufferings sustained by them, and inflicted upon them by the Souldiers whose Barbarous, and cruel inhumane dealings towards them are herein related.

THe Lord God of eternal mercy hath beheld a remnant in this place; and hereawaies that could not be satisfied without the knowledge of his life, and although they were scattered among divers sorts and waies of profession, to see if they might find that soul-satisfaction, which the teachers of each way so much professed, and their souls so much desired, yet the Lord beheld the integrity of their hearts, and he heard the many groanings of his beloved Seed, which could not consent to the vanity and deceit which still wrought it self into every way, which man had set up, and by means hereof, there was a continual strife in our selves between the flesh (which would willingly have rested in the fleshly and carnal performances) and the spirit which

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which ſtill moved and ſtirred in us, in judgement againſt what we did in that nature and ſtate in which we knew not the living God, and in the midſt of this ſtrife our ſouls were ſorely afflicted, and we cryed, Oh that the Lord would give us the certain knowledge of his way and worſhip, and the Lord heard in heaven and anſwered us, and ſent his ſervants among us, even the Miniſters of the everlaſting Goſpel, fitted by his eternal ſpirit, and furniſhed with wiſdome and power from an high, who uttered forth the ſound, in the voice of the ſpirit that reached to the ſeed, that lay in the captivity, and it revived in the living hope of deliverance at hand; and when theſe faithful Meſſengers, had turned us from the darkneſs that was come over us, which vailed us from the knowledge of him who is inviſible, and had preached the light of Jeſus Chriſt amongſt us, wherewith we and all men were enlightned, it was given to a remnant to beleive, who did not hearden their hearts againſt the truth, and when we had received power to beleive in the light, it gave us daily to ſee the ground and cauſe of our ſepetation from God, to wit, ſin and iniquity, which the pure God abhorreth; and when we learned of the light that we muſt either be ſeparated from ſin, or elſe remain as we were ſeperated from God, and in this great ſtreight, few knew our bitter and grievous temptations, with which we were daily accompanied, having all the wrath and fury of the Generation of ungodly men, and all the diſputations and conſultings of the corrupt and ſelf-ſerving reaſon of our friends and acquaintance, and alſo of our own hearts to deal withal; and all the reproches of the Goſpel to bear and to endure with the loſs of Reputations, Friends, Intereſts and Relations, all threatning as it were utter ruine at once, this was the dark Cloud we had to go through on the one hand, and if we turned the other way, ſeeking to eſcape this Cup, by our ſtill walking with and conforming to this world, and the wills of men in Worſhip and converſation, then the Lord God of Heaven and earth appeared as an enemy to us, and his righteous judgements peirced our hearts, and reached into our ſouls, and ſtruck us with horror & amazement, ſo dreadful was his appearance that no Mountain could cover us nor hide us from his preſence, ſo that it became a gloomy and dreadful day unto us, ſo that when we ſought to do the things the Lord required of us, that we might appear friends of Chriſt, and

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that he might be our friend, then Lo, all men became our enemies, and when we sought to please men, and to be at one with them, then the Lord appeared as enemy against us, and his appearance was very terrible; thus was our way hedged up and we knew not what to do, but which way soever we forecasted in our own thoughts to take, the Lord confounded us and stopt us, that we knew not what to do in this day of our sad & heavy affliction, till at length the power of God opened our understandings thus far as to see that our way was to wait upon the Lord, for it must be he that must direct us & lead us, and not man, and that for that very purpose he hath now raised up a living witness and Minister of judgement in our souls, that we might have somewhat to stay upon that were certain, and not as the voices of men were changeable and uncertain: So then as many of us as were thus perswaded, and did feel the former straitness, did assemble our selves together, to seek the Lord, whom we wanted more then all things, and a secret hope dwelt in us that if we followed on to know him, we might come to know him, so in this hope we met in much fear and trembling, and much weakness, being sensible of the strength of the power of darkness, both within & without, and when we were met together, we dare not utter words before the Lord for his dread was upon us, and he had put us to silence.

And when the people saw that, we quickly became a wonder and a hissing unto all sorts of people, and all manner of contradictious spirits rose up against us; against whom we had no manner of might, but were fain to be as sheep dumb before the shearer, and not open our mouths, lest if we should judge them in our own wills, the Lord should judge us, then O what long furrows was ploughed upon us, all sorts of spirits and peoples coming into our assemblies, mocking, reviling, and disdaining our foolish manner of waiting upon the Lord (as they counted it) yet these things we bore with all patience and meekness for his sake whom we were seeking after, and waiting for, neither did their revilings enter to hurt us, while we kept quiet and patient, for it the sooner weaned us from hankering after the friendship of this world, and we become as Pilgrims in it, seeking something which they least of all regarded; and many false Prophets came into our assemblies, seeking to destroy our hope, and to make

us and others beleive that this manner of way of seeking God would be altogether uneffectual, and we would be scattered and come to naught, and such like things many hundreds can witness was for divers years frequently sounded in our Assemblies, sometimes by Ranters, and sometimes by Baptists, and sometimes by Presbiterians and Independants, for we were indeed as the offscouring of all things, yet the Lords secret arm sustained us and kept us in hope, and that was our Anchor, and in patience and that was our Armor, and we took heed to the appearance of his light and grace in our hearts, and that often refreshed us in the midst of these tempests and temptations; and we were thereby encouraged still to wait upon him, for we felt it was not in vain, and when we had waited long and sought the Lord, he answered us at last, and began to reveal his love in us, which so overcome us as we were comforted concerning all our former sorrows, and we encreased in might and in power in the inward man, and grew valient for the truth upon the earth, and exhorted others, as such as had obtained mercy of the Lord, that they would beware of such Teachers who kept them from the Light, & we constantly affirming (in our own assemblies, & also in others when the Lord required us) that the light wherewith Christ Jesus had enlightned them was the way to eternal life, witnessing forth what God had done for our souls, and what he would do for as many as beleived and waited in his light for his appearance.

And at these things the Priests and teachers of the people that then were, began amain to stir up the Rulers, to Persecution, who were not wanting to act their part in their day, both by whipping and prisoning, and taking away our Goods, &c. which the Lord helpt us to bear with patience, only we bore witness against them, that if they did persist in turning the sword upon the Innocent, the Lord would pluck it out of their hand and overturn them which now he hath done as they know right well; so not being at all terrified at these things, we went on in the work of the Lord, and the Lord opened an effectual door in the hearts of many for his living truth to enter, who being overcome thereby, came and sate down with us, and were added to us, whom the Lord hath blessed and made partakers of eternal life, with us through Jesus Christ our Lord, and thus much as to the dealings of God and men with us in the time of the former powers.

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And when it pleased the Lord to lay them by, and to dispose of these Kingdomes into the hand of the King, and of this town into the hands of other Magistrates, or of some others under him, we continued our integrity to the Lord and our former subjection to them that were over us in outward things, alwaies readily submitting in such things wherein an offence did not come upon our Consciences, and patiently suffering the penalties that hath been inflicted upon us, when for conscience sake we could not actively fulfil what hath been imposed on us, neither hath the Magistrates of this town appeared so extraordinary violent in their prosecutions against us as some in some places and at sometimes have done, who have endeavoured to make the Execution of Lawes the extention of their wrath and malice, I say their moderation in this perticular we cannot but confess, so far as it hath been extended to us, neither can they say that we ever exceeded the bounds of Christian moderation towards them, in taking encouragement to do or contrive any thing against them, or any others whatsoever, since they came into the Government, but have sought their good, and wished their prosperity, so far as they sate in the true seat of Magistracy, being a terror to the evil doers, and a praise to them that did well, neither did we ever seek to free our selves from the abideing and enduring such penalties & punishments as they have inflicted upon us for the breach of any Law, which we for conscience sake could not actually obey, and in this we appeal to their own consciences before all the world, & before God, & Angels, whether they can charge us justly with any resistance ever made by us against the execution of any penal law against us, howbeit they have now in this year, we may say suddenly risen up against us with such a high and cruel hand, as is the object of amazement to the Nation, and the object of pity and commiseration to all that hath not lost humanity, or forgot natural affection, Oh frinds where is the cause of these unheard of cruelties daily inflicted upon us? Was ever the like read of since the daies of *Diocle-sian*? did Christians (so called) though Papists ever run upon innocent people in their Meetings, and knock them down, and wound and beat them in this manner, (except in time of Massacre or Rebellion) we say what is the cause? is it because we were grown heady and unruly, did we abuse your Officers when they came among us?

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did we threaten revenge upon you or them, surely every intelligible man that hears of your dealing with us, will enquire the cause, and least any should beleive you had just cause thus to deal with us, we are now (though we have been long silent) free in the fear and dread of the Lord to declare the cause, that so if any do think we deserve what is come upon us, they may be undeceived, and the truth cleared, and our cause pleaded by that which is just in all men, to whom this relation may come, who can give us so much credit, as to beleive we have written the truth.

We being peaceably met together, to wait upon the Lord according to our usual manner, upon the 25*th.* of the 8*th.* month this present year, it being the first day of the week, there came *William More* Mayor of the town, to our Meeting, and broke it up, and committed some to Prison whom he would, who being required to go, went with his Officers without any kind of resistance, to the prison where they remain to this day, and on the next 4*th.* day he sent his Officers to the Meeting, who broke it up and brought divers to prison. The next 1*st.* day being the first of the 9*th.* month, came the Mayor again, and broke up the meeting and sent some more to prison, but he being not satisfied with this, or thinking this not sufficient though it were (as he said) the Execution of the Kings Law, but upon the 10*th.* day of the same month, caused, or at least suffered a Party of the County Troop to come to Friends meeting, who beat some and brought some to prison, and having done much mischief, to the meeting place, and to the Forms, Seats and windows in the same, they post away, and they being gone, the Mayor imployed a poor old man that lived neer the meeting place, to stop friends from going in at the gate to their meeting Chamber, who being told by the old man that the Mayor had set him there to keep them out, though they knew he was no Officer, nor had any Warrant, yet they peaceably and patiently continued their Meeting in the street, making not the least resistance, and so time after time, this old man was a sufficient guard to prevent us coming at our Meeting-house, and we being engaged by the large love of God before mentioned, not to forsake our testimony to Him and his truth nor to forsake the assembling our selves together, though it were with so much difficulty, hazard and reproach, as to meet in the

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street, enduring both cold and rain; Yet dare not but meet together, when we felt that the Lord required it of us, and when it did appear that all these things could not deter or affright us from our innocent testimony which we had to bear for our God in this place, then was this present and unparalleld stratagem found out, to wit, to cause a Troop of the Kings horsemen to come upon us with such violence as is hereafter mentioned, as if the execution of civil Justice had been a weapon too weak to deal with a company of innocent people, who have neither sword nor staff to help them, nor a will to use them if they had them; so upon the 5. of the 10. month, came the troop to this town, and on the 6. day came about 40. of them to the Meeting on horseback in their Armour, and Armed with Swords, Carbines and Pistols, crying *what a Divel do ye here*, and having their swords drawn, some with swords and others with Carbines did lay on upon old and young, both men and women, until many were exceedingly bruised, and then chased friends to and fro the streets, so that they became a prey to their fury where ever they met them, as well as at the meeting, and others they beat thinking they had been Quakers, and broke into several houses terrifying and affrighting people in a very strange manner, and as if all these weapons were not sufficient to execute their wrath upon us, against the next first day they got them great Clubs, and riding up armed, and in their armour as before they knockt down many in the street in such sort as some lay as dead men, and divers left their blood on the place, and many had their flesh so bruised, and their Limbs so disabled as they could not get off their cloathes, nay not help themselves with food divers daies after, nor work at their callings till the anguish of the blows with those clubs were mitigated, one of which being measured was found above four inches about by the rule; and one trooper beat a Friend with his drawn sword till the blade fell out of the Hilt, which when the friend saw, he said, *I will give it thee up again*, and so giving it to the souldier, said, *I desire the Lord may not lay this daies work to thy charge*; and they having dispersed the meeting in such sort as aforesaid, four of them met with a poor sickly man about a quarter of a mile from the meeting-place, and riding up to him, asked him if he were a Quaker, and so fell on and beat him in such a manner, as the beholders thought he would have dyed upon the place, and in all likelihood had been killed, had he not

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been received into a house near by, but he was disenabled for getting his bread, or providing for his Family, and whether ever he will perfectly recover we know not.

And on the *4th.* day of the week, there came a part of the troop and coming soon, they found but few come, but those men that we e come, they beat in a very grievous manner, and followed them into houses and inner yards a foot to beat and bruise them in like manner as before.

And on the *27th.* of the *10th.* month they used another stratagem to terrifie us withal, *viz.* they set certain Centinels on horseback and some on foot, to guard the waies where friends should be driven away, and then came 38 armed men on horseback riding upon friends in such a desperate sort, as would have amazed any that had had nought but an arm of flesh to trust to, and being come did with their Clubs and Carbines, lay on in such a manner, as moved the standers by to great compassion, and many tears, at which time they beat friends upon their heads and shoulders, until some received above an hundred blows as was generally judged by the beholders, and as they beat us away, they did but drive us upon the aforesaid Centinels, who were prepared with such cruel Clubs in their hands, and such deliberate cruelty in their hearts, that every of us that passed by them, was in a second jeapordy of our lives, when we had escaped the body of the horse, and divers of us were that day beaten, till our flesh was turned from its natural colour, with the blood being stopt, and turned as a jelly in the flesh, and our Limbs deprived of their natural use, yet for the blessed testimony with which God hath honoured us, we dare not but give our backs to the smiters though they were and are cruel ones, and all these blows were accompanied with an incredible company of oathes and curses, which exceedingly grieved our souls, as their blows grieved our bodies.

Again, on the *3d.* instant, there came a company of Souldiers on foot and some on horsback, armed as aforesaid, to the Meeting, at which time about 60. Friends were gathered together upon the place, and in a very furious manner did they fall on as if they had intended to have slain them all, with their cruel Clubs and Carbines knocking down divers in the street, among whom one old man a-

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bove sixty years of age; they knockt down and beat in so unreasonable a manner until the people cryed out (even our enemies) let that old man have no more blows, he hath enough, and he being not able to go, was fain to be lead home to his house. Another old man of sixty five years old was followed a great way from the meeting, by 3 on foot, and one on horseback, and so beaten and bruised by their mercilesse blows, as he remains very ill still of one arm, and whether ever it will be recovered to its former use we know not, and a woman being mooved with pity to see the old man so abused spoke to them at which one on horseback came up to her, and with his drawn sword gave her a cruel blow over the shoulders, with bitter curses and very uncivil speeches not fit to be named; though now very usual for us to bear, as we were the worst of people upon the earth; but these things doth beget us yet into a farther dislike of such a Religion as is promoted and carried on with such fruits, and accompanied with such violence contrary to the nature of the Lamb, for we have more cause to beleive these men are following the Lion and the Beare, and the Beasts of prey, then the Lamb, who is meek and lowly, and came not to destroy mens lives but to save them, and the wisdome from above is first pure then peaceable, *Iames* 3. 17. and till this doth more appear, we can have little encouragement to joyne with them from a principle of love, and if we should joyne with them, only for fear, it would be hypocrisie, and God and man would abhor us.

And as if all these cruelties were not enough for these men to inflict upon our bodies, against the 6. day of this month being the 4. day of the week, the souldiers prepared themselves with a new kind of weapon to torment the women friends withal, which made some of them say, *if they might choose, they had rather have been beaten with their grievous Clubs*, but being given up to endure and to suffer all things for his names sake, who hath loved us and dyed for us we are willing also, if it be his will to suffer it so to be, even to give up our lives a testimony for him, so largely hath he affected our souls with his loving kindness. The weapons by which they now thought to satiate their cruel minds upon us, was to take iron spikes, and drive them into the ends of their clubs, and sharpen them with a File, and so they might easily enter through womens clothes, and

when they came to the Meeting, about 400 of them in the like manner, in their Armour as aforesaid, they struck exceeding desperately upon the men friends, endeavouring to strike one man over the face with their cudgels, & had in likelihood utterly spoiled him, had not his wife been neer, who to save his life endured many sharp blowes her self, and with these iron Pikes aforesaid, did they that day much harm to diverss, pricking and wounding one antient woman a widdow, of good report in this town, in no less then twelve several places in her flesh, and another woman was prickt in the reins of her back, and divers more, too many to mention perticularly felt the cruelty of this their new stratagem that day, and if they see any friend to move or start, when they come at unawares behind them, and run these Pikes into their flesh, then that they made themselves sport withal, and was as a pleasant game unto them.

And after all these cruel and unmerciful sufferings, it pleased the Lord to restrain the wrath of men for a season, so that for the space of two or three weeks we were free from those heavy blows, which had for about six weeks attended us, yet were we not free from as much molestation and persecution, as they may or could bring upon us without the souldiers, for though it pleased the Lord to cause their heavy hand to be withdrawn from their former violence, yet his hand was stretched out against us, and against our peaceable meeting, and came himself and sent his Constables to break up and disperse us, time after time, so soon as a very few were met together, and so when one instrument failed he would have another, and indeed the souldiers would tell us frequently our own neighbours were worse to us then they were, and that they were never put to such work before, and that they were sent for to do what they did, &c. and this calm as to cruel blows continued until the 21*st.* of the 11*th.* month, and then there being about 60. friends standing peaceably together, waiting upon the Lord in their usual manner, in his fear and dread, unto whose integrity the God of heaven had respect, and sweetly comforted them, and spread their table and gave them of the bread of life, notwithstanding the malice of their enemies, we say after we had stood that day an hour or two in that sort came the Mayor and Recorder from their Worship, and commanded the Town Clerk to bid us to depart in the

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Kings name, which he did, but we knowing that we were gathered together in the Name of the Lord of Lords and King of Kings, and also beleiving, or being assured that the Kings name ought not to be a terror to them that do well, for the name of power (in this sence) of God and the King, ought to be one, upon this consideration we did not to depart, and not in contempt to the King or his Ministers, but presently souldiers were (by the aforesaid Mayor and Recorder called Sir *John Shaw*, desired to disperse us, who very roughly handled divers of us, and kicked several, and pusht and thrust us about, though we resisted them not. So upon the next 4*th*. day, which was the 24*th*. day of the month the souldiers were mounted again in their armour as formerly, and with Trumpets sounding, about twenty of them rode through the street down to the meeting place, where a few friends were assembled together, and fell on upon friends in a cruel manner, and three of them were sorely beaten, and the rest were pusht and thrust away with great violence.

The first day following being the 28*th*. day of the month, they were mounted as before, and beat two friends very sorely, at a pretty distance from the meeting place, where a party of them stood, and sent out others of them two and three in a company, who as scouts ranged the town, stopping and putting back friends as they were coming toward the meeting in the several streets, and that day one friend was going down the street (not towards the meeting place) but another way to visit a friend, and two troopers seeing him went to him, and said *you are a Quaker*, and fell on and beat him, laying on divers cruel blowes, at which a certain Constable seeing it, came up and said to the souldiers, *I charge you in the Kings Majesties name to keep the peace, for I am a Constable*, at which one of them went to the Constable and beat him several blowes, and so went away, by which all may see how much these men regard peace, or the Kings name either, when it comes in competition with the execution of their wrath.

The 4*th*. day following, the souldiers were mounted betimes in the day, and took possession of the ground before friends came, and so kept them from assembling together that day. And on the next first day, being the 6*th*. of the 12. month 1663. came about twenty

one ſouldiers, to the place in their uſual manner, before any friends were come, and when about ſixteen friends were aſſembled together, they carried them away to the *White Hart* their head quarters, and there kept them about ſix hours, and when the worſhip at the Steeple-houſes was ended, the Mayor and Recorder, went to the ſaid Inn, and examined them one by one to know whether they were at Church, or Divine ſervice (as they call'd it) that day, and ſwear ſeveral ſouldiers againſt them, and demanded twelve pence a piece of them, which they denying to pay, were threatned to be diſtrained, making as it were a ſport with them, telling one they would have her ſcarfe, and another they would have her Porridge-pot, &c. by which all people may meaſure how little gravity and moderation is amongſt them, and how little thoſe kind of dealings may allure or perſwade us to joyne with their Church and Worſhip, let the wiſe in heart judge, where in ſtead of finding the power of Godlineſs, we cannot ſo much as find a ſober or diſcreet behaviour, but are as the uncircumciſed children of *Edom*, mocking at the day of *Iacobs* troubles, but the Lord who beheld in thoſe daies, and had compaſſion on the afflicted, and laid waſte the Mountains of the ſcorners, is ſtill God and changeth not, and in him doth our ſouls truſt, yea and in him will we truſt for his names ſake, and for the ſake of the poor and afflicted, who have no other helper but he, and ſo to him we leave our Adverſaries, who knows how to preſerve the humble, and to humble the haughty who ariſeth up againſt him to reſiſt him. The 13*th*. of the ſame month a party of the troopers took poſſeſſion of the ground, and took friends as they came, and had them away to the *White Hart*, not regarding whether they were tranſgreſſors yea or nay, for as ſoon as there was 1. or 2. or 3. they took them to priſon as well as if they were 6. or 7. and then the Mayor came to judge them, and made a Mittimus and ſent two of them to Priſon for being that day at an unlawful aſſembly, notwithſtanding when one of them was taken there was but he and the troopers, and when the other was taken, there was but 4. beſides the troopers, ſo that if there was any unlawful aſſemblie, it was the troopers, for theſe two poor men was not in the compaſs of the act, yet to priſon they were ſent, and when the Mayor underſtood that they could not be holden for meeting, then he would have them

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fined twelve pence a piece for not hearing Divine Service that day, and to be kept in Prison till they paid it, but by what Statute he passed that sentence we know not, he will do well to inform us if he can; how be it, by reason of the moderation of some others, seeing the unjustness of their being detained, they were after about 8. or 10. daies released again.

On the *16th.* day the troopers came in their usual manner, and would not suffer us to meet together, but drove friends away as they came.

On the *20th.* day they took possession of the ground, and as friends came 5. or 6. together, had them away to the *White Hart*, about 30. men and women, and kept them there till near night, and then the Mayor went to the Moot Hall, and some others with him, and the souldiers were ordered to bring their Prisoners before him, 6. or 8. at once, or thereabouts which was done, and they being examined were again fined twelve pence a piece, and one country friend committed to the Goaler, and after two daies released, at this time he used many threatnings against us, and seemed very angry, though we had done him nor no man harm, and told us of sending of us to the house of Correction, and of banishing us, but knowing that he, and all that act like him are lymited of the Lord and shall do no more of these things then shall turn to the Glory of God, and the advancement of his truth; to him therefore we commit our cause, and rest satisfied in his will, whatever it be to do & suffer, rather then to betray the testimony of his truth committed unto us in our generation. On the 23. day of the month, the Souldiers brought friends from the meeting place forthwith to prison, to the number of 17. and when the Mayor came he would have them procure some to pass their words for them, that they should be there again the next morning at the *10th.* hour, but they all refused offering to promise it upon their own words, but that would not serve him, howbeit the Goaler afterward obtained license to take their words all but four, so the rest not knowing of the exception of four went forth and came again the next day, and then the Mayor and *William Bassett* Captain of the troop had them brought before them, and used many high and bitter words against us, as if all those former cruelties were far short of what they intended against us, as its like

like enough if the Lord gives them power, but in the end the Mayor demanded ſureties of them for their appearances at the next Seſſions, which they could not for conſcience ſake do, not being guilty of any wrong to any man, nor yet of any evil purpoſe towards any, ſo he committed four of them to Priſon, and the reſt he took their words to appear at the next Seſſions, if they were in health and able to come, and being demanded by the 4. why he committed them, he ſaid becauſe it is my pleaſure to commit you, but we beleive his pleaſure is to the diſpleaſure of Almighty God, and ſo to his Maker we leave him and his pleaſure, but do know and teſtify that his pleaſure is in unrighteouſneſs, 2 *Theſ.* 2. 12.

On the 27*th.* of the month and firſt day of the week, friends removed their meeting from where it wont to be, to meet together in our grave yards, and a party of the troop mounted and went thither, and put off ſuch friends as was come, and kept the ground, and as friends came, they drove us away without doing any farther harm to us that day, and on the 30. of the ſame month, the ſouldiers came to the place aforeſaid, and finding a few of us met together, took us away and drove us away to the *White Hart*, and when we had been there ſeveral hours, the Mayor not being at home, his Deputy for that time diſcharged us, ſo we went to our homes.

On the 18. of the 11*th.* month was an adjournment of Seſſions, at which divers of the priſoners were called to anſwer to Indictments, which were read, ſignifying (to them that would beleive them) that the parties within them named, did with force and Arms aſſemble together, wickedly & maliciouſly with many more, in an unlawful aſſembly, to the breach of the peace, and againſt the Kings Majeſty Crown and dignity, &c. to which ſome friends ſaid in that manner and form they were not guilty, though they denied not being at a meeting that day, ſo not guilty being recorded, the Recorder demanded of the priſoners to put in bond to proſecute their traverſe the next Seſſions and they ſhould go out, but they not willing to come into bonds of that kind refuſed it, whereupon the Recorder told ſome of them they might lie this ſeven year, yea all their lives time, and never come to a tryal, except they would enter a traverſe, and ſo the Goaler was commanded to take them away, and divers of us to the number of ſix had layn then in priſon from

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the 11th. of the ninth month and were not so much as called, or accused, and it was said they could find nothing to accuse us, to the Grand Jury, yet are we detained to this day, and some of us have been kept Prisoners near a year, for no other thing, but for being at a peaceable meeting, and yet are we kept in prison, and not brought to any tryal; so all people may see how much respect these men have to Law, in their own particulars, who would have us dispence with our consciences for the Law sake, and they themselves can wave those good and wholesome Laws made for the common good of men in general, so that they may execute their wrathful wills upon the Innocent, who cannot appear for themselves, nor be found striving in the earth, but desires in all long suffering and patience to convince and stop the motthes of our enemies and to overcome their evil with good, and we know it will not be in vain, for in them where there is any regard to truth, or seeking after Righteousness, these things shall become a good savour, and shall answer the witness of our God in their consciences: And as for them who have hardned their hearts, and still delight to turn the sword upon the neck of the innocent, we do believe that the measure of our tribulations and sufferings shall be fulfilled by their cruelty, and the measure of their iniquities shall also be fulfilled, as we dwell in the Lambs patience, and when the day of our refreshing doth spring forth in the mighty power of our God, then shall their glory be stained, their mirth be turned into anguish and sorrow, and they shall then know, that this work is of God and not of man, and their Maker will prove too mighty for them.

Again, on the tenth day of the second month, the souldiers came to the meeting place, with Trumpet sounding, and pritty many friends being assembled together in a very peaceable manner, as they use to do, the souldiers took about 20. friends away to the *White Hart*, and kept them several hours, and then brought them before the aforesaid Mayor, and *Thomas Wade* called a Justice, who having examined them let the women go home, and then committed four men friends, and the rest for that time went home to their own houses. And on the 22. day of the month, came a Quarter Sessions to be holden, at which the former six and the 3 women and a man, and these four last mentioned, were indicted

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for being at a Conventicle on such daies as was mentioned in their severall Indictments, *and that with force and Arms to the terror of the people, and to the breach of the peace*, &c. which Indictments the Jury found against all the 14. save one, and one their was no witness true nor false that he was at that meeting, as indeed in the truth there could not be, he not being gotten to the meeting before he was taken, but was taken in the street, and yet committed and kept 23 weeks in prison before any bill was exhibited against him, and when it was, it was (as to him) cast out by the Jury, so that he ought according to law and Justice to have had his Liberty, but in stead of liberty the town Clerk *William Cockeril* demands 5 *s.* 4 *d.* of him for Fees, and for his non-payment he is detained in prison to this day and threatned with prisonment during his life except he or some for him will pay this 16. groats, and the Mayor backs him in this cruelty: Now let all sober people judge between these two men, whether he the town clerk have deserved 16. groats of this Prisoner for he being such an instrument as he was in helping him to 23 weeks false Imprisonment, for he was the Mayors cheifest instigator in committing this man, though the Constable the witness, said he found him in the street, which was so, and whether we had not as good defile our consciences in denying the testimony of the truth as not to bear our testimony against such deceit, and oppression as this is, and as to the other 13. they were called and had their Indictments read to them, against which they all bare witness and against the spirit of falsehood, and persecution, that formed them against so many innocent and harmeless men and women, who used neither force nor arms, nor could not terrifie any people, but such as go in *Cains* way, and having either in their hearts or hands murdered and shed the blood of the innocent, do thereby become fearful least every one that meet them should kill them, but he and all his children are banished from the presence of the Lord, and that will be punishment enough for them; when they grow as sencible of it as was *Cain* which will certainly come upon them if they repent not before the day be over. Then was there no more of us put in prison till the 1. of this third month, on which day the souldiers took eight men and carried them to the *White Hart*, and kept them till toward evening, and then brought them

before

before the Mayor, who having examined them one by one, he swore divers of the souldiers, who upon their Oathes, said they took them eight men standing together at such a place, but they swore not they were at any unlawful meering or Conventicle, nor that they were met under colour of any religious worship, howbeit his greedy mind to take all occasions offered him, lead him to commit them all to prison, charging the Jaylor not to give any of them liberty upon peril of losing his place, so that he is the man who would shut mercy and compassion out of the earth to us ward if he could, neither shewing any himself, nor suffering them that would if he can hinder them: but though it be so, yet our keeper is the Lord of Hosts, and we cannot but testify to all our brethren every where, to whom this Relation shall come, that he hath been aboundantly good unto us, and hath sweetned our cup of bitter tribulation unto us aboundantly, and our strength and courage hath not failed, who have beleived on him to this very day, and though we are but weak in our selves, and divers have been ready to say within our selves, since this sharp day came upon us, Oh our weakness our weakness, how shall we appear another time in our testimony to behold our Husbands, our wives and children, and brethren, our friends and relations made so sad a prey to unreasonable men, and to be knockt down, beaten and bruised before and behind us, yet for all this when the day hath come, the Lord God whom we serve hath taken us by the hand and lead us forth and brought us into this burning bush, but we were not consumed, but feeling the force and constraint of his love we yielded to it rather then to the force of the power of darkness, which would have caused us to have drawn back to perdition, and so to have been lost, and to have lost our Crown and name among the living. And dear Friends, this we farther testify for the Lord our God, that he doth yet multiply his blessings upon us, and we beleive will yet sustain us, and give us our daily bread, for he is our Father and we have no other helper, and in prison and out of prison he comforts and upholds our spirits from fainting, and whereas he hath been pleased for the present to allay somthing of that inhumane cruelty which was acted upon us,

our souls desire to give him the glory, and as they that were the instruments of procuring our bloodshed, shall have their reward in the day of Gods vengeance except they repent; so whosoever have been instruments in the allaying this fury, and of extending some pity and compassion towards us, they shall if they persevere in mercy and in compassion have their recompence among the friends of *Zion*, which God hath alwaies in his remembrance for good.

And dear friends and brethren forasmuch as ye know of whom we have learned to assemble our selves together, and in whose name power and authority we have hitherto done it, and what blessings, yea manifold blessings we have all reaped thereby, and how the Lord hath vindicated us herein, and justified us both in our own souls and in the sight of many that hath rose up against us, who now can confess they hated us without a cause, and they rose up against us to their own hurt, we say considering that ye know these things, we need say little more to exhort you to stedfastness in this matter, but only this, that it hath pleased God to call us forth in this day to give up our All in this world, rather then to give up this own thing which we have learned of God, in which particular, we desire that as you come to be tryed you may follow us as we have followed the truth, and that our testimony which is as the price of blood, may in the humble and brokenness of heart, in the fellowship of the Holy Ghost be offered up unto our God, who hath and will accept it, and that we all may in the same spirit return praises to the Lord who hath thus magnified his name in and among us, and that we may all henceforth live together in the unity of that precious truth and holy life of Jesus Christ our head manifest among us, and that he of us or us that glory may glory in the Lord, these are the breathings of our souls to the Lord God Almighty who liveth and reigneth for ever and ever Amen.

Oh unheard of cruelty, and mercilesse christianity, yet these are them that are come to reform us, (as they say) oh bloody reformation, oh cruel ministration of Law, did Queen Mary use such means as this to bring in a conformity, doth not a Spanish Inquisition

sition admit of a tryal, for Heresie; did not the unparaleld Persecutors in *New-England*, first so m and make a Law to destroy us before they took away our lives for our testimony, and yet the King was displeased therewith, and stopt their bloody devices, and surely if he were sensible of these our grievous sufferings for a matter of conscience, he could not but be moved with some compassion, especially seeing he hath given us some cause so to judge, in that he hath declared that he is an enemy in nature to Capital and sanguinary punishments, upon the account of matters of conscience or Religion. his

And notwithstanding all these things before mentioned, which dayly comes upon us, yet as if this were not enough, we are dayly summoned to the Commissary Court when they come, and are run to excommunications, and are also presented and summoned to the temporal Courts, and Sessions, to answer the same things, and by the Statutes are fined, and because for conscience sake we cannot pay such Fines, our goods are frequently made havock of, and taken away from us and sold, so that there is no device that we know of, that may make our lives uncomfortable in this world, but is inflicted upon us, some upon one, and some upon another, that we can truly say we have no certain Portion but the Lord our God, who doth not fail to comfort and refresh and strengthen us, else we must have fainted before now but we believe he will not forsake us, and that sustains us, and him they cannot part from us, while we abide faithful in his Covenant of light and life, unto which he hath gathered us by his own mighty power, and hitherto kept us, and in that eternal power, that hath been our helper hitherto, our souls shall still trust, and then we need no other power nor deliverer but it.

And though it be so that our lives be daily in jeapordy, and our Liberties we cannot promise our selves one day, many of us being in Prison, nor our estates we have no assurance of, they being in parts and parcels daily went from us to discharge such Fines, and Amersements as are daily impoled upon us, so that indeed we have nought in this world that doth promise us any continuance, if we continue in the truth, which is the desire, and

the very purpose of our hearts in which the Lord God of Heaven and earth strengthen and confirm us all, to the praise and Glory of his holy name, who is worthy to be obeyed and served, though it be through those many tribulations, and the more also for the incouragement of the joy that is set before us, and that through many tribulations we may in due time obtain an entrance into the kingdome of his everlasting rest and peace, if we faint not.

And now dear friends and brethren, who see or read this relation and true report of our grievous sufferings, you know it is because that the life is risen, that the Nations are moved, and this life is but one, and governeth in one manner of way, and bringeth to righteousness and truth, which the Nations have rejected, and many people despised to be governed by it, and therefore would not have us governed nor ruled by it neither, but because we have consented that truth shall reign over us, by its unchangeable power, therefore doth all changeable powers work, and war against us, but dear breathren that which we desire of you at this time, and that this day of our sore and sharp tryal is this, that ye all dwell in the power and fellowship of that blessed life, which is arisen in and among you, that in the unity and strength thereof yea may pray for us, that the Lord our God may still support us, and give us courage and wisdome how to bear the profession of his holy name, among his and our Adversaries, and let nothing hinder your Prayers, but in the breathing of the one spirit which gave you life in the beginning, with one consent and with one heart and mind, which God hath wraught and formed, let your supplications be presented and herein shall you contribute your assistance to us, in the secret Communion of the one only seed Christ Jesus our head, to whom we are joyned, and while we abide in him we are as Members of his body, and sensible one of another, through the operation of his love that hath called us, and begotten us to himself by the word of life, and as to these our enemies, we have only this to say at present, the Lord knows we do both love ad pitty them, and do heartily desire they might never know greater punishment for all this evil which they have done unto us, then repentance and godly sorrow that so they

might

might in due time come to receive remission and forgiveness before that day mentioned in *Jude*, which judgement will be without remedy, *Jude* 14. 15. *verses* when God will excute judgement for all hard speeches, and ungodly deeds, and this we testifie unto them, that except they repent of these things, they will be laid to their charge to their perpetual condemnation, who have done or caused those things to come upon us, for keeping our conscience void of an offence.

And though (if the Lord permit) we may seal our testimony with our lives as righteous *Abel* did, and many more hath done, yet we say as from the Lord, that whosoever is the cause thereof his or their punishment shall be too heavy for them, and more then they will be able to bear, and let such consider in time, before it be too late, that when the innocent was betrayed into the hands of his Murtherers, it was then too late to bring again the thirty pieces of silver. So these cautions in love to their souls, we write, and do heartily desire that both Rulers and Souldiers may be wise, and fear the living God, who knows how to preserve them that trust in him, *For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall perish*, 1. Psal. ult.

Colchester the 6. of the third month 1664.

From us who are scornfully called Quakers in Colchester, *whose trust is in the Lord, and our confidence in his power, and have no arms of flesh to help us when men rise up against us.*

AND truly we fear the Lord will lay much to the Charge of these men, who thus hunt for blood, who to prosecute their evil purpose against us, whom they know are innocent, have not spared to abuse the ears of them that are greatest in Authority by false information against us, nor to abuse the soul-

soldiers to employ them in a work so far below that Heroick and Noble spirit that ought to be in a Souldier, who in times past would have scorned to have fought with a company of poor innocent men and women, who could neither affright a hand against them, nor fly from them; but when one troop is drawn away another is procured, so that these Magistrates hath in eight months brought three Troops of Horse upon us, of which the last that now is abusing of us, though not yet in such cruel sort as the former, is said to be Sir Francis Compton's Troop who came to our Meetings upon the twenty second and twenty sixt day of the fourth month called June, and forceably took away thirty one men and a woman, and carryed them to the aforesaid Mayor, who with Thomas Wade called a Justice, committed them all to Prison, notwithstanding the many that were there before, and commanded the Jailor that they should not have any work brought them to do, nor straw to lye on, nor meat to eat but what he provided for them, and on the twenty ninth of the said month came divers of the said troopers to the Meeting, and struck many cruel and fierce blows, as if all Lawes made against us were not sufficient, but the Tyranny of their Club-Law must still rest upon us, and we have great reason to believe that the Souldiers are animated to this work by the Mayor and others, for we hear say that in other places where the same troops have quartered they have not medled with friends until they came here, but secret things God will bring to light, and hidden wrath shall break forth upon them that have conceived it, and every child thereof shall inherit it, and we only rest in the Lord, our portion waighting until the measure of their cruelty and our sufferings be fulfilled, and then both we and they shall each have our reward, and we appeal from man to God the righteous judge, and to his witness in all mens hearts whether we have deserved these things at their hands yea or nay.

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POSTSCRIPT.

THe cruel rage of theſe men hath been ſuch, as they have ſpared neither old nor young, nor contented themſelves without blood, yea innocent blood, which is weighty and will prove ſo in the end. On the ſixt of the eleventh month, they grievouſly beat one *Edward Grant* aged about ſixty five years of a blamleſs converſation, a man upright in his life and conſtant in his teſtimony unto the death, who had walked with us from the beginning, as a pattern of meekneſs and ſincerity, this man being ſo exceedingly beaten by theſe mercileſs men, of Coll. *Oneal's* troop commanded by Captain *William Baſſet*, went home to his houſe, and never more came forth, but endured much pain and grief by reaſon of the bruiſes of his head, back and ſhoulders, of which he often complained in that time, ſaying he felt more of his blows when he lay than when he received them, and alſo haveing ſome former diſeaſe upon him after the manner of a ſtrangury, which at this time if not by this means was augmented, he continued patiently under theſe Pangs aforeſaid 28. daies, and that day month that he was ſo bruiſed, and about the ſelf ſame minute of the day he departed this life in peace and quietneſs.

Printed for M.

POSTSCRIPT.

THe cruel rage of these men hath been such, as they have spared neither old nor young, not contented themselves without blood, yea innocent blood, which is weighty and will prove so in the end. On the sixt of the eleventh month, they grievously beat one *Edward Grant* aged about sixty five years of a blamless conversation, a man upright in his life and constant in his testimony unto the death, who had walked with us from the beginning, as a pattern of meekness and sincerity, this man being so exceedingly beaten by these merciless men, of Coll. *Oneal's* troop commanded by Captain *William Bassot*, went home to his house, and never more came forth, but endured much pain and grief by reason of the bruises of his head, back and shoulders, of which he often complained in that time, saying he felt more of his blows when he lay than when he received them, and also haveing some former disease upon him after the manner of a strangury, which at this time if not by this means was augmented, he continued patiently under these Pangs aforesaid 28. daies, and that day month that he was so bruised, and about the self same minute of the day he departed this life in peace and quietness.

Printed for M.